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A TRUE RELATION

Of a moſt Horrid Conſpiracy and Running away with the SHIP

ADVENTURE,

Having on Board *Forty Thouſand Pieces of Eight*, and other Goods to a great Value.

Together with the Cruel and Barbarous leaving and turning aſhore upon the Iſland *Naias*, in the *Eaſt-Indies*, the Captain, and three Merchants which were Paſſengers, and Sixteen honeſt and able Seamen, Eight whereof miſerably periſhed by Hunger and Hardſhip, and but Four of the Remainder yet come to *England*.

Together with ſome ſhort Account of what paſſed at the Trial and Condemnation of thoſe who Committed that Fact.

THE Ship *Adventure*, of which *Thomas Gullock* was Commander and *Supra-Cargo*, bound to *Borneo* in *Eaſt-India*, broke ground from *Graves-End* on the 16*th* of *March* 169¾. and toucht at *Brava* one of the *Cape de Verdy* Iſlands, and having there got plenty of Refreſhment, Fowls, Hogs, Goats and green Trade, proceeded on their Voyage, and in the Month of *Auguſt* fell in with the Coaſt of *Sumatra*, went to *Padang* to get Refreſhment for the Ships Company, lay there five days, bought there four Bullocks, Fowls, Fruit, green Herbs, Potato's, *&c.* which was equally divided to the Ships Company, alſo about a Tun and half of Rice, and half a Butt of *Arack*, got one Boat-load of Water, and ſail'd thence; about 20 days after, being by calms and currents driven near *Naias*, an Iſland inhabited by a barbarous ſort of People who have no Commerce with any *Europeans*, came to an Anchor, the Captain order'd the Long boat on ſhoar with empty Cask to fill Water, under the charge of Mr. *William Hill* his ſecond Mate, with 24 Men well arm'd, with orders that if a Gale of Wind ſhould ſpring up, or that they ſhould ſee any Natives or tracks of them upon the Sand, then immediately to repair on Board without Water, being in no great want of it, but thought *that* the beſt uſe could be made of the time whilſt lying at an Anchor. After the Long-boat was put off, the Captain was in great perplexity leſt the Boats-crew might be deſtroyed by the barbarous Natives, therefore went on ſhoar himſelf in his Yaul after them, and ſtay'd at the watering place, being two or three hundred yards diſtant from the Boat, until Mr. *Hill* ſent him word the Water-cask were full; the Captain then ſent him orders to ſend the Long-boat on board with fifteen Men; *Joſeph Bradiſh* Boatſwains mate deſired Mr. *Hill* to let him have the Yaul to tow the Long boat off from the ſhoar, which he agreed to, intending only the Security of the Boat, but they continued to tow much farther than neceſſary, and then caſt off the Tow-rope, laying the Yauls Head to the ſhoar, with only two Men as appear'd in her; when the Long boat was near the Ship, two Men more roſe out of the Yauls hull, and then with four Oars row'd directly aboard the Ship, getting both on board together; then did *Joſeph Bradiſh*, *John Lloyd*, *Thomas Hobbs* and others, ſeize Mr. *Abraham Parrott* the chief Mate, telling him he was their Priſoner, and the Ship and all that was in her was their own. He asked them what was the matter, and what they thought would be the end of it? They anſwered he need not trouble himſelf about that, they were for *A ſhort Life and a merry one*. The Conſpirators being immediately arm'd, made themſelves Maſters of the Ship, cut her Cable, looſed her Sails, and run away with her, leaving the Captain and 14 Men upon the ſaid Iſland, expoſed to inexpreſſiable Miſeries and Dangers, not only from the barbarous Natives, but Tygers and other wild Beaſts, *&c.* without any manner of Proviſions, Moneys or Cloaths, except the worſt, which they had on their backs, or any proſpect of returning to their Native Country, or indeed of ſo much as preſerving their Lives.

Soon after the Ship was under Sail, they turn'd the Yaul away, and in her five Men, *viz.* Mr. *Dru Hacker*, *Rex Kempton*, *George Reyner*, *Jonas Grizley*, and *Franciſco* an *Indian*, being ſuch as would not joyn with them in their Villainous Deſign, not giving them one Biſket Cake, or any Suſtenance, but refuſed to let them go to their own Cheſts to put on a Coat, Hat, or

Shoes, insomuch that three were turned ashoar without Coats or Hats, and two without Shoes, and being forced to travel over sharp Rocks, they, with others whose Shoes soon wore out, had their Feet torn and mangled, and bled in such a miserable manner, that they desired to lye down and dye there, rather then to have gone on, if the Captain had not over perswaded them.

The number left in this deplorable state were 16 of their fellow Seamen, with the Commander and three Merchants, who, besides the extream danger of perishing there, were robb'd of what they had aboard, frustrated of the fruits of their Voyage, and their poor Wives and Children left to starve at home. Eight have since perished by hunger and hardships, who, if they were present, would more livelily set out the horrid Cruelty of those unmerciful Men who run away with the Ship, and left them in that miserable and wretched Condition.

This distressed Company being thus left, without any thing to eat, did remain so from *Saturday* morning the 17*th* of *September* till *Thursday* evening the 22*th*.

But tho' the Barbarity of their fellow Seamen left them in such unspeakable distress, yet it pleased God wonderfully to bring about Means for the Preservation of a few of them to be Witnesses of so horrid a Villany; for there happened to come two Boats to the said Island, which the Captain did hire with the Promise of 500 Pieces of Eight to pursue his Ship, and was on *Munday* the 19*th* within 4 or 5 Miles of her, but by a sudden Storm was forced ashoar, and both those Boats staved to pieces, only himself with 5 Men in the Yaul escaped that Ship-wrack. But it pleased God none of them lost their Lives, but all came by Land to a Creek or Cove, whither the Captain with much toil and difficulty got in the Yaul; the Number was now by these *Atchenners* encreased to 42 Men, and no Boat or Vessel but the Yaul, which could not carry in the Sea above Eight or Ten. The *Atchenners* seem'd most afraid of the Natives, begging the Captain to stand by them, or else the Natives would either kill or make Slaves of him and them; for they said there was a Boat of *Atcheen* which came there the Year before, the Men of which the Natives had knockt on the head, and halled the Boat up above High-water mark; this Boat was survey'd and found much rent with the Sun, but that the *Malayers* undertook to stop, and did so, with Moss, Bark, *&c.* whilst the Captain took care to get the Sail and some other things of one of the wrack'd Boats, and did Launch her that day, (tho' whilst they were about it they were attack'd by 200 of the Natives, all arm'd with Swords, Targets, and Launces, who made a fierce onset, but by firing Twelve or Fourteen shot were put to flight) and with her and the Yaul got off to small Islands call'd *Maroos*, where they got some Coker Nuts, and from a Boat they met at those Islands got some Rice which had been wet with Salt-water in the same Storm when the two Boats were lost, and was heated and stank abominably, but was eaten heartily: This Boat pretended to belong to *Padang*, so that the Captain agreed with the Master for transport to *Padang*, giving the launch'd Boat to the *Atcheners* in lieu of their two Boats, which was all the Recompence he could then possibly make them. Going with this Boat toward *Sumatra* they were chased with a *Malaya* Pirate, who came up with them, but seeing them stand to their Arms bore up round, and stood away without one word. Coming near *Priaman* there is a Shoal upon which the *Malayar* ran his Boat; and when the Boat was on ground, the *English-men* all leapt over Board to go to a dry Spot not far distant, but many had like to have been drown'd by holes in the Rocks, which dipt them over head and ears, but others who could Swim assisted and got them safe to the dry Spot. The Captain went on shoar with the Yaul, and begg'd the Assistance of the *Dutch* Corporal, who sent a Boat with Natives, which brought the Men all off from that Spot, which not long after was overflown with the Tide, otherwise they must have been drowned; for the *Malayar*, after they jumpt out, got his Boat off, and went away without staying to expect his Freight, for what reason we know not. Two days after they went to *Padang*, where being ill treated, and labouring under great Want and Sickness, three soon died there. But it pleased God to raise them up there a Friend indeed, Mr. *Antony Gillis* a Native of *India*, who pitied their Miseries, relieved their Wants, and (under God) saved their Lives; whose inexpressible and almost inimitable Charity, extended to the Dead and Living, shrowding the one, and succouring the other, which is here mention'd to his honour, and in gratitude to him.

The remaining part of this distressed Company got their Passage to *Bencooken*, whereof one died by the way, and some remain'd there, of which three more soon died, and it is to be fear'd several of the rest which staid there are since dead, for only six of the Company proceeded to *Batavia*, where, after a languishing Sickness, died one more, *viz. George Rayner*, from which place the Commander and three more got passage to *England*.

The foregoing Account is given, not only by the Commander and poor surviving Seamen, but was (long before the taking of any of the wicked Crew who run away with the Ship) written from *Padang* in a Letter to the Owners by Mr. *Robert Anby* and Mr. *Ralph Peck*, two Gentlemen, who, with some others, were to have staid at *Borneo* to have settled a Factory; which Letters, with two others from Mr. *Nixon* and Mr. *Parrot* at *Batavia*, may be seen at Mr. *Crowches* a Bookseller at the Corner of *Popes head-Alley* in *Cornhill*, out of which, for Vindication of the Commander from the base and unjust Aspersions of his ill usage of the Seamen, the Owners have permitted the following Paragraphs to be printed with this Narrative.

NOW

NOW, honoured Sirs, we humbly crave your leave to do our worthy Captain Juſtice, by acquainting you of his particular care of the Ships Company, in reſpect to the health both of their Souls and Bodies; we never failed of Morning and Evening Prayers in publick upon the Quarter Deck, when the Weather would permit, our Commander daily endeavouring to ſuppreſs all manner of Vice, and to encourage Vertue. As to the health of their Bodies, he was as tender as a Mother to any that were ſick, daily minding the Doctor of his charge; and when he had freſh Proviſions at his own Table, would ask the Doctor who was ſick, and always ſent them ſome. Thoſe that were in health he endeavoured to keep ſo, by refreſhing twice or thrice a day in bad weather with Drams. In fine, God Almighty knows our hearts that we ſpeak the truth; he is the moſt religious, ſober, careful and kind Commander that we knew or heard of ever.

Robert Anby.

Padang the Twenty Third of *October*, 1698. Old Style. Ralph Peck.

Mr. *Samuel Nixon* Chirurgeon, in his Letter to the Owners from *Batavia, Nov. 27th.* 1698. writes thus:

I Do declare that I never ſaw in any of his Majeſty's Ships, or any other where I have been, better Victuals or Victualling, nor never ſo much care taken, nor kindneſs ſhewn, both toward Soul and Body, as was by the Commander, both to well and ſick; for tho' it pleaſed God to bleſs us with ſo healthful a Paſſage, that we never had any Man lay down three days together, yet hath the Captain often circumvented me in ſending Broth or other freſh Proviſions to ſick Men from his own Table, and hath ſundry times ordered Fowls to be kill'd expreſly for them only, and hath alſo ſeveral times in the Voyage given of his Fowls to the whole Ships Company, and never kill'd a Hogg, but a great part was given them; and the ſame by his Parſnips, Carrots, Pumkins, &c. allowing for the ſick Men Water grewel with Fruit, Sugar and Spice, ſuch as I thought fit. Inſomuch that I am ready to give Oath, I have heard them ſay ſundry times, that they never ſaw ſo good Victualling, nor a Commander ſo kind and careful of his Men.

Alſo he ſo husbanded the Brandy allowed for them that they had Drams always when wet, and at the turning out of the Watches. And the Ships Company drank all Beer until near the Southern Tropick, and to the Eaſtward of the Cape, and then Beer and Water to the very laſt, giving the Seamen ſometimes ſtrong Beer. As for Abuſes I never ſaw any or leſs ſtriking in any Ship where I have been, the whole amounting to the puniſhment of four or five Perſons, and that for great Faults, as Thievery, &c.

Mr. *Abraham Parrott* Chief-mate, in his Letter to the Owners, gives the ſame account of *Victualling and Puniſhments, &c.* adding, *That after the Seiſure of the Ship it was freely diſcourſt*, William Grifferh *the Trumpeter had taken upon him to have ſhot the Captain.*

And now to return, to give ſome Account of the procedure of thoſe who ran away with the Ship, taken from Three who by force were with them the whole Voyage, and gave Evidence upon Oath thereof, at their Tryal, *viz. John Weſtby, Robert Amſden*, and *William Saunders*; the Captain only giving Evidence that the Priſoners were aboard the Ship when it was run away withal.

After they had ſeiſed the Ship, and turned aſhoar the five Perſons before-mentioned, they ſailed about 50 Leagues to Sea from the Iſland, and then turn'd away in the Long Boat Mr. *Abraham Parrott* the Chief Mate, *William Whiteſides* the Boatſwain, and *Richard Heath* Armourer*, to each of whom they gave a Certificate in the following words; the Original whereof was produced and ſworn to in Court, *viz.*

Septemb. 21. 1698.

NOT willing to venture our ſelves near any Factory, and unwilling to keep any to breed Faction among us, have turned to Sea in the Long-Boat all ſuch as were not willing to ſtay, except John Weſtby *to act as Chirurgeon*, and *Robert Amſden* Carpenter, Servant, *which two* per *force we keep; the others*, viz. Abraham Parrott, William Whiteſides, *and* Richard Heath *we forced away detaining, likewiſe* William Saunders.

Joſeph Bradiſh. } { *John Peirce.*
John Lloyd. } { *Andrew Marten.*

* *Note*, Theſe 3 poor Creatures were 23 days at Sea, and had there periſh'd if they had not by accident met a Dutch Ship bound to *Batavia*, who carried them thither.

This being done, they began to divide the Clothes and Moneys of thoſe whom they had ſo left and turn'd aſhoar, and ſome time after divided the Pieces of Eight belonging to the Owners, weighing to each Man his Proportion by the Stillyards, which came to about Fifteen hundred Pieces of Eight a Man.

When they came near the Coaſt of *New-England* they agreed to deſtroy all the Journals and Writings aboard, which they did by putting them into a Bagg, and ſinking them with Shot, ſaying, *They ſhould not riſe up againſt them.*

After this, near to *Block-Iſland*, they diſperſt themſelves into ſeveral Sloops, taking with them their Moneys, *&c.* and were not contented with that, but fired five Guns through the Ships bottom, and ſunk her in deep Water, with the Cloath, Lead, Iron, and other Commodities aboard; all which, as well as the Ship, were thereby irrecoverably loſt.

Notwithſtanding their ſeparating themſelves into ſeveral diſtant Parts, *Divine Juſtice* has purſued them, and they have all been taken but one, who is ſuppos'd to be kill'd, and were brought to their Trial on the 21*ſt* of *June* laſt at the *Old-Baily*, where what they ſaid for themſelves, as to the Matter of Fact, was frivolous and inconſiſtent, but endeavoured to extenuate their Crime by charging the Commander with Severity and Ill uſage, from which the Court was

pleaſed

pleaſed to give the Commander an opportunity to vindicate himſelf, which he did upon *Oath* in the manner following, to the Satisfaction of the Court? *Viz.*

That he was ſorry to ſee ſo many Men ſo remorſleſs, as to endeavour the excuſing one Villany by committing another, as not content to have rob'd him of his Ship and Cargo, expos'd himſelf and 19 more to thoſe inexpreſſible Hardſhips and Miſeries, whereby the King loſt eight of his Subjects by untimely death, and no more than three beſides himſelf return'd to *England*, of the 20 left on ſhoar,) but farther endeavoured to Murther his Reputation with moſt unjuſt, and baſe Aſperſions. As for the Victualling of his Ship, he ſaid, that on *Sundays*, *Tueſdays* and *Thurſdays* they had every Meſs a piece of good Beef and a Pudding of two pound and a half of Flower with ½ of Suet, beſides Butter or Cheeſe for Breakfaſt. That on *Mondays* and *Fridays* they had Pork and Peaſe, with Breakfaſt as before: On *Wedneſdays* and *Saturdays* Fiſh and Burgoo; and they had Burgoo for Breakfaſt, with Butter and Sugar, on thoſe days. That they had three Cans of Beer a Meſs every day till far beyond the *Cape of good Hope*, and after that two Cans of good Beer and Water; and when they drank Water, there was a Cask with a Scuttle or Hole cut at the Bung enough to put a Cup in and drink when they pleas'd, laſh'd faſt to the Main-maſt upon the Main-deck, fill'd as often as there was occaſion. Alſo that they had 28 pound of Bread *per* Week every Meſs, until *John Lloyd* deſired the Captain to let him put two bags of Bread about 50 pound each, (which his Meſs alone had ſaved out of their Allowance) into the Bread-room, which was done accordingly. That then they were at no Allowance for a Fortnight or three Weeks, but had the Bread in an open Cask in the Steerage, to eat when and what they pleas'd, until they left it greaſie up and down where they eat, and then 'twas retrencht to 25 pound *per* Week every Meſs, and never leſs by his order or knowledge. Alſo that they had Drams Morning and Evening when fair, and as often as the Watches was chang'd when wet, never letting them go to their Hamocks wet without a Dram, to be ſure of which he did not ſuffer the Steward to give it them below, but conſtantly his own Servant at his Round houſe-door. Alſo that every Meſs had on *Sundays* a Can of ſtrong Beer; and when about the *Cape* in cold raw weather, they have often had, both Morning and Evening, Burgoo, and ſometimes Fowls for the whole Ships Company., with a very particular regard to all ſick Men.

The ſame Account *John Weſtby*, *Robert Amſdem*, and *William Saunders upon Oath* confirm'd; except that Mr. *Weſtby* and *Amſden* ſaid, they once heard or ſaw that one Meſs had but Sixteen pound of Bread one Week, which the Captain ſaid he never heard any Complaint of, for if he had, he ſhould have as readily redreſt it as he did the only Complaint was ever made him of Victuals, which was by *William Griffeth*, who brought him a piece of Pork very ſmall, which he order'd his Servant to take from him, and give *Griffeth* a piece from his own Table in exchange for it; the truth of which was confirm'd by the Witneſſes, and cannot be deny'd by the Priſoners themſelves, unleſs they will run the hazard of going from Man's Judgment to the moſt tremendous and eternal Judgment of God with guilt.

As for Chaſtiſement, he did acknowledge that *Ham Edgell* and *Wetherell* had been puniſhed; *Edgell* becauſe that he being a Quarter-Maſter, working in the *Lazaretta*, did break open a Box, and ſtole about a dozen pound of white Suger; the next day the Captain demanded at once all Keys of Cheſts, and did find the Sugar in his Cheſt: which Felony he thought fit publickly to puniſh, eſpecially in him, who being a Quarter-Maſter, might have the opportunity of the ſame Fact in Goods of far greater value, and that it might prove exemplary to the whole Ships Company.

Edward Ham purely for the welfare of thoſe who complain againſt it, becauſe that he after many checks, and ſome blows, continued naſty to that degree, that upon a complaint of the copperiſhneſs of the Peaſe, the Captain himſelf went into the Cook-room, and took off the ſides of the Copper a great quantity of Verdigreeſe, for which the Captain beat him with a Japan Cane, but not to that degree as at all to wound or break his Skin, as the Chirurgeon's Mate, Mr. *Weſtby* confirmed upon Oath. And *Witherell* was beaten for ſtriking the Boatſwain of the Ship. And if Correction in ſuch Caſes be not uſed aboard Ships, no order can be maintain'd, but all would run into Confuſion.

And theſe very Men themſelves, ſometime after Seiſure of the Ship, did ſeiſe the ſame *Edward Ham* to the Gang-way, and ſeverely beat him for the ſame Crime.

The Names of the Priſoners which were Condemned, were *Joſeph Bradiſh*, *John Lloyd*, *Thomas Hughs*, *Ellmore Clarke*, *Edward Ham*, *Thomas Dean*, *William Griffeth*, *Robert Maſon*, *Thomas Edgell*, *Francis Read*, *Cornelius Larking*, *Thomas Simpſon*, *Tee Wetherell*, *Robert Knox*, *Thomas Davis*, *Andrew Marten*, *Rowland Marten*, *John Peirce*.

The Names of thoſe left on ſhoar, Capt. *Thomas Gullock*, Mr. *Robert Anby*, Mr. *Ralph Peck*, Mr. *Drew Hacker*, *Edward Watts*, *Rex Kempton*, *George Reyner*, *Jonas Grizley*, *William Hill*, *Samuel Nixon*, *John Baker*, *John Hire*, *Daniel Gravier*, *Henry Barnet*, *Giles Brown*, *Thomas Barrow*, *John Templer*, one Frenchman, and one Dutchman.

Names of the Dead are *Rex Kempton*, *Henry Barnet*, *Giles Brown*, *Daniel Gravier*, *Robert Anby*, *Ralph Peck*, *Edward Watts*, *George Reyner*.

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